The Weekly News Letter is published by authority and instruction of the St. Louis Convention of the American Federation of Labor, and is furnished weekly, free of cost, to all official labor and reform publications.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

SAMUEL GOMPERS, President.
FRANK MORRISON, Secretary.

801-809 G St. N. W., Washington, D. C

Entered as second-class matter, September 10, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August, 24, 1912.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

VOL. 2. NO. 50

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1913.

WHOLE NO. 102

UNITY CONFERENCE SUCCESS

New York, March 15.—The Unity Conference, called by President Gompers, pursuant to action taken by the Executive Council, was held in this city on March 7 and 8, and proved most successful. Secretary Frank Morrison, Vice President James O'Connell, and General Organizer Hugh Frayne represented the American Federation of Labor, and the following central bodies of Greater New York and vicinity were represented: Central Federated Union of New York; Central Labor Union, White Plains, N. Y.; Essex Trades Council, Newark, N. J.; United Trades and Labor Council, Paterson, N. J.; Central Labor Union, Elizabeth, N. J.; Trades and Labor Council, Passaic, N. J.; Bronx Labor Council, Bronx, N. Y.; Central Labor Union, Brooklyn, N. Y.; United Hebrew Trades, New York; Yonkers Federation of Labor, Yonkers, N. Y.; Central Labor Union of Hudson County, Hoboken, N. J.; Central Union Labor Label Council of Greater New York and Vicinity; Central Labor Union, New Rochelle, N. Y.; Federated Trades Council of the Oranges, N. J.; Joint Board of Business Agents, Newark, N. J., and the Central Trades and Labor Council, Richmond Borough, N. Y. There are a number of local unions under the jurisdiction of the various chartered central bodies that are affiliated with dual central organizations. A list of these unions is to be compiled and the international organizations communicated with, through the American Federation of Labor, for the purpose of securing affiliation of these local unions with the legitimate chartered central bodies. Resolutions were adopted urging the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor to enforce the laws in the matter of requiring central bodies to refuse seats to nonaffiliated organizations, and also calling upon the American Federation of Labor to communicate with all national and international unions whose local unions are affiliated with any dual body for the purpose of securing the co-operation of the national organizations in having these local unions affiliate with the legitimate chartered central bodies and withdraw from all dual bodies. It also was further urged that the law of the American Federation of Labor should be enforced, in that no building trades union should be affiliated with a central body unless affiliated with the local Building Trades Council of the Building Trades Department, A. F. of L., where such body exists. Action was further taken asking the Executive Council to request and urge all affiliated national and international unions to assign at least one organizer to assist in a general organizing campaign in the territory represented by the central bodies in the conference. The representatives of the central bodies in the conference pledged themselves on behalf of their central bodies to enforce all laws and decisions of the American Federation of Labor, as well as the laws and decisions of the departments under the American Federation of Labor. The discussions which occurred at this conference cannot but have a splendid effect upon the general situation in this territory, and will result in a greater effort being made to promote unity of thought and action.

ILLINOIS VICE COMMISSION.

Chicago, March 15.—The vice commission authorized by the Senate of the State Legislature is holding sessions in Chicago and members of the commission regard the commission's efforts as already successful, in that it has brought to light many facts unknown before as to the labor conditions existing in the department stores. The heads of some of the larger establishments, where immense numbers of employes are engaged, have testified. This testimony gives a range in wages for girls running from $3 to $8 per week. The Manufacturers' Association, of course, is busy endeavoring to create counter sentiment. Without doubt the still further probing into department store conditions in Chicago will result in bringing to public view the real influence that low wages has upon the large number of employes.

AN INJUNCTION BILL PASSES.

Washington, March 15.—Senator Crawford's bill to restrict the issue of interlocutory injunctions to suspend State laws and orders of State administrative boards has passed and been signed by the President. It provides that all applications for such injunctions be passed upon by a commission of three judges, one a justice of a Supreme Court or a Circuit Court. It is also provided that temporary restraining orders can be issued when it is shown the irreparable loss will result to the complainant. This has no connection with the injunction limitation measure which passed the House during the long session of this Congress, and which was championed by labor.

IRON WORKERS OFFICIALS.

Indianapolis, March 15.—At the recent convention of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers the following officers were elected to conduct the affairs of the organization until next September: Frank Ryan, president; James McClory, first vice president; P. J. Moran, second vice president; — — Jones, secretary. The executive board is composed of O'Shea, of Buffalo; Kinney, of Phoenix, Ariz.; Johnson, of Newark, N. J., and Vaughn, of San Francisco.

WILL BUILD LABOR TEMPLE.

Little Rock, Ark., March 15.—The Central Trades and Labor Temple Association of this city has purchased a piece of property and will commence the erection of a building as soon as the stock now on sale has been sold. It is believed that the stock will be disposed of within a very short time. The building to be constructed is to be made suitable as a meeting place for the labor unions and fraternal organizations and will eventually contain an auditorium.

MOLDERS WIN STRIKE.

Worcester, Mass., March 15.—Fifty molders, who went out on strike three weeks ago at a local foundry because the firm refused to agree to the conditions contained in the new schedule which went into effect February 1, have returned to work upon terms approved by the union. There remains now but one firm that has not as yet complied with the conditions. Much satisfaction is felt over the splendid manner in which the affairs of the organization have been conducted during the strike.

REVIVAL FOR CLERKS.

Seattle, March 15.—A representative of the International Retail Clerks is in this city for the purpose of assisting the local retail clerks in strengthenig their organization. A compaign of considerable length is proposed, and will be under the direction of the representative of the international union.

IS PLAYING "SHANANIGAN"

Washington, March 15.—Inspectors of the Post-office Department throughout the country have been notified by the department to keep a close lookout for violations of the parcel post laws by express companies. According to information coming from reliabe sources, a specific case has come to light in which an express company is charged with having received a package for shipment, which it, in turn, sent by parcel post, thereby securing approximately 100 per cent profit through the scheme. As the story goes, a man having suspicion against the express companies paid 40 cents expressage on a box of cigars from Detroit to Milwaukee, addressing them to himself. He then proceeded to Milwaukee and received the package, but it had been sent by parcel post, 22 cents in stamps having been placed upon the shipment, which left a clear profit of 18 cents to the express company. No action has as yet been taken by the Post-office Department in reference to transactions of this character, but even if there are no records to be had against the express companies, incidents of this character will give the express companies notoriety of such an undesirable character as to accentuate the growing feeling that the business of these companies should be taken over by the government.

POLISHERS' STRIKE.

Worcester, Mass., March 15.—The metal polishers employed by the Harrington & Richardson Arms Co. are on strike because the conditions agreed upon between the members of the concern and the representatives of the union were not fulfilled. It is claimed that there was an understanding that the men were to receive an increase of 2 cents an hour. Although there was no signed agreement to that effect, assurance was given to the representatives of the union conducting the negotiations that this increase would be granted in a few weeks. The reason given for not putting it into effect immediately was that a little time would be needed to rearrange the schedule. The employes were patient and did not take decisive action until they were absolutely satisfied that the management of the company had no intentions of paying the increase. There was an increase given to some of the men, a few receiving $1.50 a week increase, others $1.00, while others received 50 cents, and a number of the men nothing at all. The firm in question has adopted the plan of the Metal Trades Association, the employers' organization, to pay the men "just what they are worth," one of the open shop principles that are so dearly cherished by associations of this character.

A. F. OF L. WINS.

Boston, March 15.—The International Longshoremen's Association, after having been successful in taking over the numerous organizations of longshoremen affiliated with the Knights of Labor, secured an agreement with the steamship companies to employ only members attached to the international organization affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The remnant of the Knights of Labor in Boston, upon this contract being entered into, brought proceedings in the courts, seeking an injunction against the A. F. of L. Longshoremen to practically nullify these contracts. This case has been heard in detail before the court and decision rendered. The injunction application has been dismissed, the court thereby sustaining the right of the A. F. of L. organizations to enter into contracts with the steamship companies whereby the members of the organization referred to are to be exclusively employed.

LEGISLATIVE RESULTS.

Barre, Vt., March 15.—Secretary Alexander Ironside of the Vermont State Federation, reports the following laws passed by the recent State Legislature: The trustee process law, exempting $10 of the workmen's wages; fifty-eight-hour law for women and minors; the factory inspection law, providing for the heating and ventilating of workshops and factories; a constitutional amendment which gives to the Legislature the power to enact a compulsory workmen's compensation law, the amendment having been ratified by the people of the State. A commission will also be appointed by the Governor to investigate and report on workmen's compensation. The securing of this legislation is considered to have been entirely the result of the efforts of the organized working people of the State, backed by the Vermont State Federation.

DARROW JURY DISAGREES.

Los Angeles, March 15.—The jury in the alleged bribery trial of Clarence Darrow disagreed and was discharged. It having been a mistrial, the indictment still stands and can be tried again. March 31 was the date set by the trial judge for the case to come up again. Rumor has it that the county will drop the prosecution, but Darrow is reported to have said: "The evidence in the case was not sufficient to convict or to warrant a disagreement. I shall insist on a new trial at once and I am determined to fight these charges to the end." District Attorney Fredericks, who has been extremely bitter in his prosecution of Darrow, makes many threatening statements. The labor organizations, feeling that Fredericks has gone too far, have begun to circulate petitions for a vote to recall Fredericks.

CONGRESS EXEMPTS UNIONS.

Washington, March 15.—As reported in the Weekly News Letter, the House adopted an amendment to the Civil Appropriation bill, forbidding the use of any part of the $300,000 appropriated for prosecutions under the Sherman antitrust law to be used in prosecuting labor organizations or farmers' unions. This amendment was concurred in by the Senate. The President vetoed the bill, and the House passed it over his veto, but the Senate failed to take like action, so the sundry civil bill died with the Congress.

LABOR OFFICIAL DEAD.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 15.—Harry D. Thomas, secretary of the Ohio State Federation of Labor, and the Cleveland Federation of Labor, died on March 6, after a protracted illness. Harry Thomas had long been identified with the labor movement, and had been active in all lines of endeavor instituted by the trade unions of this city.

BARBERS GET EARLY CLOSING.

Toronto, Canada, March 15.—The barbers have won out in their early closing fight by a vote of 16 to 7 in the City Council. The employing barbers and the journeymen to a very great extent were in favor of the early closing, there being 360 barber shops in the city, 273 signing the petition for the passage of the ordinance. The new ordinance went into effect on March 5.

NEWS OF RAILWAY CARMEN

Kansas City, Mo., March 15.—A new lodge has been organized at Atchison, Kans., and at Glenwood, Minn. Another new lodge has also been formed at Jefferson City, Mo., with a good charter list. The members of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen employed by the Maine Central have signed up a satisfactory schedule whereby they received an increase of approximately 7 per cent, and the members working on the Boston and Albany secured 1 cent per hour increase for shopmen and 1½ cents per hour for inspectors. Secretary E. William Weeks of the Brotherhood is authority for the statement that a man by the name of John H. Walters, formerly a member of Billings Lodge No. 165, Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of America, and formerly a grand lodge deputy, is traveling throughout the West and Northwest victimizing members of organized labor and others by securing money on bogus checks. The secretary also says that Walters was discharged as a grand lodge official in August, 1912, and later the Billings lodge expelled him, and asks that the News Letter give this matter space for the protection of the members of organized labor.

JUST BLATANT.

Washington, March 15.—A so-called lecturer named James O. Fagan, who claims to have been a switchman, is reported to have delivered a lecture in Boston recently in which he said that the "Labor leaders are ruining the railroads, and that they have society on the run unless the Interstate Commerce Commission is called in." In addition, he says that when the Firemen's Union wants two men to do the work that is now done by one, in order to increase its membership, it gets the men, and it costs the railroad more money, and also that the Brotherhoods are steadily undermining the railroad service, while the politicians undermine the railroads. It might be observed that Fagan isn't "switching" any more—but he's working for the railroads just the same.

NEW BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL.

Worcester, Mass., March 15.—A local labor paper says that the Worcester Building Trades Council, which has been an independent organization since its reorganization a year ago, has applied to the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor for a charter, and will, when affiliated, become a part of the Central Labor Union. With two chartered bodies, the Building Trades, and the Central Labor Union, working in complete harmony, there will be a further incentive for those local unions not now affiliated to join. The step taken by the Building Trades will assure the Central Labor Council a full quota of unions. There is a general feeling that the Building Trades' action will do much toward carrying into successful effect the work taken up by the administration in the Central Body, which has started out to make the present year a banner one in organization work.

WORKING BELOW LIVING WAGE.

Philadelphia, March 15.—The average monthly housekeeping expenses of married motormen and conductors in the employ of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company are $66.90, or $3.92 less than their average wages, according to an investigation into the cost of living conducted by the company itself. As a basis for that average, the expenses of 500 families were taken by the company. It was found that most of the families consisted of four members. The average rent paid was $14.01, food $32.18, and other expenses averaged $20.71, and now the company is proposing to establish company stores for the alleged purpose of decreasing the cost of living of its employes, and, incidentally, of course, to draw in a few shekels for itself, instead of paying to the men a living wage.

TO EMPLOY ONLY UNION MEN.

Nelson, British Columbia, March 15.—The City Council recently passed a resolution which requires the city to employ only members of labor organizations in this city. This is the second one of the provinces of British Columbia to adopt this method, New Westminster having inaugurated the plan some months ago. It is provided in the ordinance that union labor clauses are to be included in all civic contracts.

LEAD MINERS ORGANIZING.

Joplin, Mo., March 15.—The miners employed in the lead mines in this district are again forming organizations. This has been one of the difficult fields in which to maintain organizations of miners, but the miners now seem determined to form organizations in every camp in the district, and the organizer who has the work in charge is scarcely able to meet the demands made upon him. The outlook for a thorough organization of the field is better than ever before.

LIMITS WORKING HOURS.

Albany, March 15.—Without opposition the State Senate has passed a bill which is designated to prohibit the employment of women in factories after 10 p. m. or before 6 a. m. The measure, which has already passed the house, now goes to Governor Sulzer. The basis for this measure grew out of the recent investigation of factory conditions in the State, including the canning industry.

INIQUITOUS BILL.

Austin, Texas, March 15.—The railroad interests are behind a compulsory arbitration bill and are endeavoring to secure its passage through the legislature. Representatives of organized labor are actively opposing the scheme to tie men to their jobs, and it is predicted that the railroads will be defeated in their efforts to secure this legislation.

TAILORS' LONG STRIKE.

Toronto, Canada, March 15.—On Saturday, March 1, the tailors entered upon the second year of their strike. The fight started with the demand of the union for clean, sanitary workshops, fair working conditions, and a living wage. The International Union of Journeymen Tailors is assisting the local union in its fight.

TOOLMAKERS ORGANIZE.

Cleveland, March 15.—A union of toolmakers has been formed in this city. The new local starts out with a good membership, nearly fifty having signed the charter list. They are organized under the machinists.

OHIO'S COMPENSATION LAW.

Columbus, Ohio, March 15.—A workmen's compensation law is now on the statute books of the State of Ohio. It is considered to be a first-class law, and was passed by the Ohio Legislature by unanimous vote.

FEDERATION GROWING.

Washington, March 15.—The average membership of the American Federation of Labor for the fiscal year 1912, as reported to the Rochester convention by Secretary Morrison, was 1,774,760. The average membership for the first five months of the present fiscal year, October to February, inclusive, shows an increase of 172,527, or a grand average paid membership on February 28, 1913, of 1,947,287. The month of January was the banner month in the history of the Federation, the paid membership for that month reaching 1,979,420. This latter figure is closely hugging the 2,000,000 mark, for with but the addition of 20,580 members for January the goal would have been reached. The organizing campaign of the American Federation of Labor is adding members, and it is confidently expected that the prediction made last fall that a prodigious growth would be made in the coming year will be realized and the membership roll permanently fixed beyond the 2,000,000 mark.

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JANUARY IMMIGRATION.

Washington, March 15.—The Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, in the Department of Labor, has just issued its January immigration bulletin. For the second time in nearly a year the immigration from Southern Italy does not head the list in point of numbers. During the month referred to there were admitted to the ports of the United States 46,441 alien immigrants. The bulk of these immigrants was distributed, according to nationality, as follows: Hebrews, 7,033; Polish, 6,688; South Italians, 5,571; Russians, 3,896; Germans, 3,816; English, 2,623, the balance being distributed among 33 other nationalities. From July, 1912, to January, 1913, the total number of immigrants landing reached 391,884. Of the number of immigrants arriving the principal occupations designated were: Farm laborers, 10,079; unskilled laborers, 6,481; servants, 4,521; tailors, 1,446, the balance being scattered among the various trades and professions. During the month under consideration 29,730 emigrant aliens departed, thus leaving a net gain for the month of 16,711. The January arrivals were distributed to the various States as follows: New York, 13,597; Pennsylvania, 6,200; Illinois, 3,803; Massachusetts, 3,710; Michigan, 2,264; New Jersey, 2,248; Ohio, 2,111, the remainder of the 46,441 arrivals being distributed throughout the remaining States. There were debarred during the month 1,018, 412 of this number being denied admission to the country on account of their being likely to become public charges.

FIREMEN'S ARBITRATION.

New York, March 15.—The arbitration board, which will arbitrate the differences existing between the fifty-four Eastern railroads and the Locomotive Firemen, has convened and commenced taking testimony. The board, as finally constituted, is composed of Albert Phillips, representing the firemen; W. W. Atterbury, representing the railroads, and William L. Chambers, of Washington, D. C., formerly Chief Justice of the International Court of Samoa, also a former member of the Spanish Treaty Claims Commission, who is the third arbiter and umpire on the board. Under the Erdman act, a decision must be rendered within thirty days.

TO ORGANIZE INTERNATIONAL.

New York, March 15.—The fur workers, who, with the assistance of the American Federation of Labor, recently won a splendid victory in this city, are about to organize an international union. A call will soon be issued for a convention to draft and adopt a constitution and by-laws and elect a corps of officers. The people in this trade, as a result of the successful strike, have now a strong and influential organization, and are in sufficient numbers to maintain a substantial international organization.

"BOXERS" AND DRIVERS STRIKE.

Philadelphia, Pa., March 15.—Alleging discrimination against union employes, over 300 drivers and boxmakers are on strike. It was decided that as a condition precedent to the returning of the boxmakers and drivers a readjustment of conditions must ensue, and all demands be granted. The combination of drivers and boxmakers is a splendid fighting force, making the prospects bright for a victory in the near future.

AUBURN TEXTILE WORKERS.

Auburn, March 15.—As the result of a campaign in this city among the textile workers, there has been four local organizations formed, one of the Polish and Muskovite employes, one of Italians, one of Rusniak, and a fourth of English-speaking employes. These four locals combined have a membership of approximately 1,000. The outlook here is bright for a further increase in membership and new organizations.

GIRLS ON STRIKE.

Chicago, March 15.—Ten thousand members of the Children's and Misses' Dressmakers' Union, mostly girls, have gone on strike, demanding a fifty-hour week, better pay, and the abolition of tenement house work. It is predicted that 5,000 more will join the strike a little later.

GOOD ARGUMENT FOR RAISE.

New York, March 15.—The New York Central reports the largest loaded car movement in February for any similar month in its history. This movement increased 203,710 cars, or about 15 per cent. Over a third of it was on the lines east of Buffalo.

TEXTILE WORKERS GROWING

Fall River, Mass., March 15.—President John Golden, of the United Textile Workers, in a resume of the activities of the organization, says: "As the result of a splendid organizing campaign among the silk workers of Scranton, Pa., and vicinity, nine local unions have been organized and in every instance was followed by the securing of increased wages ranging from 10 to 20 per cent. At four of the silk mills a strike took place, and after four days' duration, increases in wages were granted averaging 12 1-2 per cent, with a 100 per cent organization in each mill and seats provided for the use of the girls. At Dover, N. J., the employes of a silk hosiery mill were locked out because they had formed a union and were informed they could not return to work until they agreed to give up their union. The employes refused to leave the organization, and after eleven weeks the firm receded from its position and the union employes returned to work. The employes in a textile mill at Pompton Lakes, N. J., recently made a demand for an increase averaging 15 per cent, but the management of the mill refused to accede and a strike followed. It lasted only one day, however, when the new price list was accepted by the company and all returned to work."

ONE ANGLE OF INQUIRY.

Akron, Ohio, March 15.—One feature has been injected into the State Senate probe committee's investigation of the rubber strike that is very liable to be interesting. One of the so-called organizers of the I. W. W. was asked what had become of the $8,000 which had been collected in that city from the strikers and he refused to answer, saying that "all money would be accounted for after the strike was over." These I. W. W. organizers are now leaving Akron for the alleged purpose of going West to secure funds to assist the strikers. There have been expressions of suspicion from some quarters that the money collected by this aggregation is not devoted in very great part to the needs of the working people, but is entirely used to defray the expenses of the "traveling warriors," and that very little, if any, of the money contributed by workmen on strike to the I. W. W.'s is devoted to the strikers' needs. A public detailed report of receipts and expenses would be an interesting document and throw light on I. W. W. fiscal operations.

COMPENSATION BILL FAILS.

Washington, March 15.—The workmen's compensation bill, which passed both Houses, ran into a filibuster in the closing hours of the Sixty-second Congress and failed to become a law. The compensation bill was first passed by the Senate and then passed by the House with amendments, and the Senate, owing to the filibuster, did not concur in these amendments. The measure, which grew out of an investigation by a special commission, was approved in a general way by organized labor. It was recognized that it was not a perfect bill, but the belief was expressed that it formed a foundation upon which to build a satisfactory and effective workmen's compensation law. The Sixty-third Congress will be asked to pass a similar measure, and it is considered practically an assured fact that a compensation bill, satisfactory to all concerned, will be one of the results of the coming Congress.

HOLDS LAW VALID.

Springfield, Ill., March 15.—The decision handed down by the State Supreme Court recently on the Sunday closing ordinance gives a victory to the meat cutters' union of this city. At the time the ordinance went into effect one of the meat market proprietors defied the law and opened his place on Sunday for business. He was tried in the local court and convicted, and the case was appealed to the State Supreme Court. The latter court has just rendered a decision sustaining the decision of the lower court, thus sustaining the ordinance requiring Sunday closing.

PAINTERS WIN OUT.

Spokane, Wash., March 15.—Following the granting of concessions on both sides, a controversy that has existed for nearly a year between the master painters and the members of the painters' union has been settled, and the fight for the open shop by the master painters has been abandoned. A wage scale of $4 per day will be made to apply to the public hiring members of the union direct in cases where the tools are furnished, but the union workmen will charge $5 per day to the public when they are required to furnish their own tools.

LOGGERS ORGANIZING.

Aberdeen, Wash., March 15.—A representative of the American Federation of Labor is working in this vicinity among the loggers and a considerable number of the employed in this industry are joining the local organization. There are approximately 4,000 workers employed in the sawmills of Aberdeen and Hoquiam, and between 2,500 and 3,000 loggers are working in the forest tributary to the two places mentioned. Meetings have been arranged for the future, and it is expected that the increase in membership will continue.

GETS COMPENSATION LAW.

Little Rock, Ark., March 15.—The Legislature has passed an employers' liability law. The laws in the interest of labor in this State are few, and the achievement of securing the law mentioned means much to the workmen of the State, and is indicative that the interests of labor in the future are to receive greater consideration than in the past.

VALVE WORKERS STRIKE.

Pittsburgh, March 15.—Refusing the compromise offered by the company, 200 workmen at the Pittsburgh Valve Works are on strike. The walkout followed a demand made recently by the employes for a raise in wages from $1.70 to $2 per day. The company offered $1.75, an increase of 5 cents. This was refused and the strike followed.

MOTHERS' PENSION PASSES.

Salt Lake City, March 15.—The mothers' pension bill, providing for a minimum pension of $10 a month for mothers having one child dependent upon them for support, and $7 a month for each additional child, has been passed by the State Legislature and is now before the Governor for his approval.

LEATHER WORKERS ORGANIZE.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 15.—A local union of the leather workers on travelers' goods has been formed in this city, with a good-sized charter list. The new organization will hold open meetings for the purpose of securing additional members.

FISHERMEN ARE ON STRIKE

Buffalo, N. Y., March 15.—A general strike of all the fishermen on the Great Lakes is on. A vote was taken on the question recently and a strike authorized, unless their demands were granted. There are now two scales, the day scale and the chance scale. The chance scale affects the fishermen of Pennsylvania, while the day scale affects those in Ohio. There are 800 fishermen on Lake Erie, and if the strike is not settled by March 15, when the Ohio fishermen start their work, they will all refuse to man the tugs, and the tugmen, it is said, will not work with a non-union crew. One of the grievances of the fishermen is that they are paid only 1 1-2 cents per pound while the dealers dispose of them to the trade at 12 to 15 cents per pound. It is also said by the fishermen that the dealers only buy their catches when so inclined, and that at times they are forced to dump all of their catch because of the refusal of the packers to buy the supply. It is asserted that years ago the packers were anxious to get all the fish they could, making a fair profit on the larger output at cheaper prices to the consumer, but now the output is restricted and the fish sold at a higher figure to the trade. The demands of the fishermen call for a 30 per cent increase for the housemen, a 10 per cent increase for the pond-net fishermen, and a ten-hour day for the gill-net fishermen working by the day. A compromise offer was submitted by the fishermen before the strike, but it was rejected by the fish packers.

WILSON WITHOUT SALARY.

Washington, March 15.—The Department of Labor is established. William B. Wilson is its chief, but the bill creating the Department of Labor provided no building, staff, or salary for the Secretary; consequently, there is no money available to defray the expenses of running the department. However, this is the same condition of affairs that occurred when the Department of Commerce and Labor was established, and at the opening of the extra session of Congress, which in all probability will occur on April 1, an appropriation will be passed to cover the expenses of the department. This appropriation would naturally come under the sundry civil appropriation bill, and this bill, during the last session of Congress, was vetoed by the President, because labor unions were exempted in an amendment to the appropriation designed for the judicial department. It will, therefore, be necessary at the opening of the extra session to at once pass a sundry civil appropriation bill, in order that the salaries and expenses of other departments of the government may be met.

URGE FULL CREW LAW.

St. Paul, Minn., March 15.—The railroad organizations of Minnesota are pressing for passage by the legislature their full crew bill. This is the third time that this measure has been before the legislature, at the last two sessions opposition against it by the railroad companies being strong enough to defeat it. At this session it is confidently believed that the bill will become a law, although it is meeting with the usual opposition from the railroad lobby. Some of the provisions of the bill prohibit any railroad to operate a passenger train consisting of six or more cars with less than the full crew of six men. It also requires that every freight train of more than fifty cars, exclusive of the engine and caboose, shall carry a full crew of six men, and freight trains with less than fifty cars can operate with five men, although it is provided that in mixed trains a full crew of six men shall be the complement.

NEILL BEING OPPOSED.

Washington, March 15.—The nomination of Charles P. Neill, to be commissioner of labor to succeed himself, which is now before the Senate for confirmation, is meeting with much opposition from Southern Senators. They base their opposition upon the matter contained in his report upon the conditions of employment and the wages paid women and child-workers in some of the Southern States. It will be remembered that upon the publication of this report some of the Southern Senators took umbrage at it and endeavored to get the Senate to authorize another investigation, but failed. The nomination of Dr. Neill has been referred to the Committee on Education and Labor and the hostile Senators have given notice that they desire to be heard before the committee makes any recommendation.

CHILD LABOR CONFERENCE.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 15.—Over 200 delegates, representing every State in the Union, are in Jacksonville attending the annual conference of the National Child Labor Committee, which opened March 13. Those who are participating in the conference and are on the programme for addresses are Dr. Felix Adler, president of the National Child Labor Committee; Jerome Jones, editor of the Journal of Labor, of Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. Florence E. Kelly, secretary of the National Consumers' League; Frank Tucker, president of the National Conference of Charities and Correction, and Miss Lillian S. Wald, of the New York Nurse Settlement.

RETURN TO WORK.

Boston, March 15.—The differences between the cloak and skirt manufacturers and their striking employes have been adjusted. The workers, who numbered about 3,000, or about one-fourth of all the garment workers on strike, will immediately return to work. The basis of the settlement reached follows closely the lines of the New York system of agreements now in operation.

INJUNCTION GRANTED.

Chicago, March 15.—The application for an injunction made by the judicial department of the Taft administration, just prior to March 4, has been granted against the Electrical Workers of Chicago. This case arose as a result of the strike of the Electrical Workers against the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company.

CLARK CONFIRMED.

Washington, March 15.—Commissioner Edgar E. Clark, renominated by President Wilson, and confirmed by the Senate, as Interstate Commerce Commissioner, has been elected chairman of the commission by his colleagues. Mr. Clark was for many years president of the Order of Railway Conductors.

ANOTHER TEMPLE PROPOSED.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 15.—The trade union movement of this city is seriously considering the erection of a labor temple. Preliminary arrangements are being made with a view to presenting the matter in concrete form to the various unions throughout the city.

CLOTHING STRIKE IS ENDED

New York, March 15.—The big clothing strike in the men's garment industry, which involved practically 110,000 men and women and which was inaugurated on December 30, 1912, was brought to a close on February 28 by a settlement, the terms of which materially advance the wages and reduce the hours of labor. The increase in wages ranges from $1 per week up to 10 per cent and 20 per cent on former wages. This later will in many cases get the workers from $2 to $4 per week increase for the vast majority of the workers affected by the settlement. The hours for the future will not be more than fifty and fifty-one per week. In other cases the length of the week's work has been submitted to a commission, and the present outlook is that eventually, through the medium of this commission, which was appointed to investigate this phase of the grievances, the forty-eight hour week will be installed. This agreement further provides for the abolition of the subcontract system, no reduction of prices during the dull season, hours and conditions in contract shops to be identical with those in the inside shops. There is to be no discrimination in the re-employment of the strikers. The following associations, comprising over 900 firms, are parties to the above conditions: The New York Clothing Trades Association, the American Clothing Manufacturers' Association, Tailors to the Trade Association, Associated Boys' Clothing Manufacturers, Boys' Wash Suit Manufacturers' Association, the Metropolitan Association, the Manhattan Association, the Canal Street Merchant Tailors' Association. The United Association of Merchant and Manufacturers has also requested that its members be included in the terms of this agreement.

TAFT VETOES CIVIL BILL.

Washington, March 15.—The sundry civil bill, which passed both houses in the closing hours of the Sixty-second Congress, was vetoed by President Taft. The reason for the veto was the amendment which had been inserted requiring that the $300,000 appropriated to prosecute illegal combinations under the Sherman anti-trust law was not to be used in prosecuting labor or farmers' unions. The House passed the bill over the President's veto, but the Senate refused to take similar action. One conspicuous incident was that Congressman Berger, who assumes to be the "only labor representative in Congress," voted to sustain the President's veto, and thus shows his disapproval of excluding unions from the operation of the Sherman anti-trust law—this in view of the fact that the American Federation of Labor has continuously opposed the attitude of the courts in placing labor organizations in the category of illegal combinations in restraint of trade.

MORE DUALISM.

Washington, March 15. — Information comes to headquarters that there has been organized a so-called international union of painters and paperhangers, with headquarters in New York. This information is to the effect that the organization is Socialistic in character, it having indorsed the platform of the National Socialist party. It is said, however, that at the present time the membership of this alleged union consists chiefly of men employed on alteration jobs. It is not likely that this sort of catch-penny organization will make any material progress in the industrial field, but to some extent it does illustrate the lengths to which combinations of individuals whose brains are immersed in political dope will go in antagonizing the legitimate labor movement.

PAVING CUTTERS.

Albion, N. Y., March 15.—The quarries shut own in November and do not open until the following April, and, therefore, the men in the paving cutting business are idle. The employers have been presented with a new bill of prices and an increase is asked from 40 cents to 50 cents per hour, and for piece work an increase from 55 cents to 60 cents per yard. The employers maintain that it will be impossible to meet this advance, but as the men working as paving cutters have not received a raise for a long time, they are determined to maintain their position. Hopes are entertained, however, that when the quarries are opened in the spring the advance will be granted.

INTERESTING TESTIMONY.

New York, March 15.—John W. Lake, formerly a fireman, now an engineer on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, testified before the arbitration board, sitting in the controversy between the fifty-four Eastern railroads and the locomotive firemen. He said that counting terminal delays a fireman's round trip on the Lake Shore consumed forty-six hours, of which thirty-six were spent away from home. He also asserted that it took sixteen years before a fireman could become a regular freight engineer on the Lake Shore after entering the service. This long period of time in reaching the throttle side of the cab was ascribed to big engines and increased tonnage of trains.

YARDMEN WANT CHANGE.

Chicago, Ill., March 15.—The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern switchmen contend that they are entitled to the same consideration in all questions of wages and conditions of employment as the yardmen who work for other companies in Chicago. Owing to the fact that it has been impossible thus far to get a readjustment of conditions, a strike vote has been taken by the Lake Shore switchmen, and if an amicable settlement is not reached soon a strike will follow.

FOR CO-OPERATIVE FACTORY.

San Francisco, Calif., March 15.—A conference has been held between representatives of the California Rochedale Co-operative Company and the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union with a view to starting a co-operative shoe factory in this city. It is said by those who were present at the conference that the indications are that such an institution will be established in the near future.

COMPRESSED AIR WORKERS.

New York, March 15.—A local union attached to the International Compressed Air and Foundation Workers has been established in Newark, N. J. A new minimum rate of wages effective since the first of the year is in operation, being an increase of 50 cents a day. The scale is now $4.50.

CITY TO EMPLOY MANY MEN.

Minneapolis, March 15.—There will be 1,500 more men employed on city construction this year than last. The work to be done includes that on water mains, sewers, paving, and general construction. The city pays $2.40 for an eight-hour day.